



DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
A Public Agency

Tuesday, May 10, 2005
8:30 AM

Santa Barbara MTD Auditorium
550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

John Britton, Chair, Brian Fahnestock, Secretary, David Davis, Director, Logan Green, Director

DIRECTOR NOT PRESENT:

Olivia Rodriguez, Vice Chair

MTD EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Sherrie Fisher, General Manager, Tiara Lakey, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller, Steve Maas, Manager of Strategic Planning and Compliance, Gabriel Garcia, Manager of HR & Risk

OTHERS PRESENT:

No members of the public were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Britton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Britton noted that all members were present, with the exception of Vice Chair Rodriguez.

3. REPORT REGARDING POSTING OF AGENDA

The General Manager reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters, on the MTD website and mailed to the media of general circulation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Director Davis moved to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for the Board meeting of April 26, 2005, with a correction to item #12 of the minutes. Director Green seconded the motion. Director Fahnestock abstained, due to his absence from that meeting. The motion passed.

5. CASH REPORT

Director Fahnestock moved to approve the cash report from April 19, 2005, through May 2, 2005. Director Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was a discussion regarding MTD's payment of fuel taxes. Chair Britton reported that a meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled and that the credit card expenses would be reviewed.

THIS CONCLUDED THE CONSENT CALENDAR

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public.

7. PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The General Manager and Gabriel Garcia, Manager of HR & Risk reviewed MTD's current property insurance coverage. The current insurance covers all of MTD's facilities, excluding the buildings at Overpass site. The General Manager noted that the property that is stored within those buildings is insured and that the charging equipment at Carpinteria is also included within the current policy.

Chair Britton asked if the Overpass site is protected from vandalism. Jerry Estrada, Assistant General Manager/Controller reported that a private security company patrols the site.

Director Fahnestock asked if the current or proposed insurance renewal included earthquake coverage and added that he thought that FEMA had or tried to require all government agencies to carry earthquake coverage. The General Manager responded that staff would research that requirement and noted that staff intends to present any coverage information with next year's budget. A quote for earthquake coverage could be included.

Mr. Estrada updated the Board on the status of MTD's request for approval by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to lease out that property to another party. Mr. Estrada reminded the Board that a portion of the funds used to purchase the Overpass site was provided by the FTA and it is estimated that they own 30% of the property. If the FTA approves MTD's request, insurance needs for that site would be reevaluated and brought before the Board.

The General Manager then requested the Board's approval to renew property insurance with Travelers Insurance Company, effective May 5, 2005, which includes a slight cost decrease of \$52.00 for the next 12 months. Director Fahnestock moved to approve the General Manager's request for property insurance renewal. Director Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board deferred item #8 of this agenda to commence just prior to adjournment

**8. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION- WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM
(CAROL GIONFRIDDO)**

The Board met in closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.95(b) to consider settlement of a Workers' Compensation claim by Carol Gionfriddo vs. MTD and gave staff authority to settle this claim.

9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager reported that Sarah Glover, Marketing Coordinator had recently participated in the Employer's Meeting on Regional Transportation that was held at UCSB last week. During this event Ms. Glover handed out schedule guides, promoted the Valley Express

service and provided other valuable information to the attendees. MTD was well received at this event.

Mr. Estrada stated that MTD, Lompoc, Santa Maria and SBCAG staffs are working cooperatively to develop new procedures for distribution of 5307 Operating Assistance. Procedures for awarding 5307 Operating Assistance funds still need to go before SBCAG's Board before final presentation to the FTA.

The General Manager recommended that the Board approve an Ad hoc meeting to discuss an expenditure plan for Measure D that is expected to be put to a vote in November 2005. The General Manager noted Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) staff plans to recommend the hiring of consultants to handle the public polling process requirements. Director Fahnestock discussed commuter rail and its possible effects on Measure D funds. The Board asked Directors Fahnestock and Davis to attend a Measure D Ad hoc meeting with MTD staff.

Director Fahnestock requested that MTD hold quarterly meetings to discuss Regional issues and formally invite City and County transportation representatives to attend. Director Fahnestock requested that MTD staff compile a potential list of invitees.

South Coast Area Transit (SCAT) recently visited MTD and provided a "Thank you" lunch for the MTD employees that assisted in the preparing and loaning of buses to assist them through the period during which they were unable to use CNG fuel. This was due to a damaged CNG line. SCAT also presented MTD with a Resolution of Appreciation.

The General Manager reported that MTD's staff has been conducting community outreach in the form of public input meetings regarding fall routes & schedules. These meetings will conclude with a public hearing that will be held as part of the May 24, 2005, Board meeting.

The General Manager provided the Board with information regarding the Yaco Scholarship Fund and reviewed its history.

The General Manager announced to the Board that she has been invited to join the Coastal Housing Partnership Board. Director Davis, who is a member of the Coastal Housing Partnership's Board, provided the MTD Board with information about the organization and stated he feels that it is important for MTD to be a part of the effort. The General Manager then asked for the Board's approval for her to join. The Board approved the General Manager's request, but expressed concerns regarding her already busy schedule and requested that she consider that.

Director Davis expressed some of his concerns regarding current employee relations at MTD and stated that he looks forward to seeing positive changes that will be implemented by Mr. Garcia. Director Davis added that one small change would be to provide non-Spanish speaking drivers with a frequently used terms laminated card, in Spanish, to communicate with Spanish riders. The General Manager reported that MTD currently addresses the language barrier at VTT driver training and driver input meetings and is always interested in suggestions for better communication between drivers and all their passengers.

The General Manager updated the Board on the possibility of Easy Lift sharing space with MTD at the Olive Street facility and stated that further information and recommendations would be brought back to the Board.

The General Manager stated that MTD is close to receiving a permit from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to finalize the remediation of the soil at Calle Real.

10. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Green reported that the Development Committee had met and reviewed fall routes & schedules.

At this time, Director Green suggested that MTD consider using a lobbyist to seek needed funds for MTD in Washington. The General Manager replied that MTD had used a lobbyist in the past, but it had been very costly. The General Manager stated that MTD continues to be in contact with the lobbyist used and that MTD may want to consider using their services again. Director Fahnestock instructed that this be an agenda item for a proposed future regional quarterly meeting as discussed earlier.

Item resumed as mentioned above

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11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.